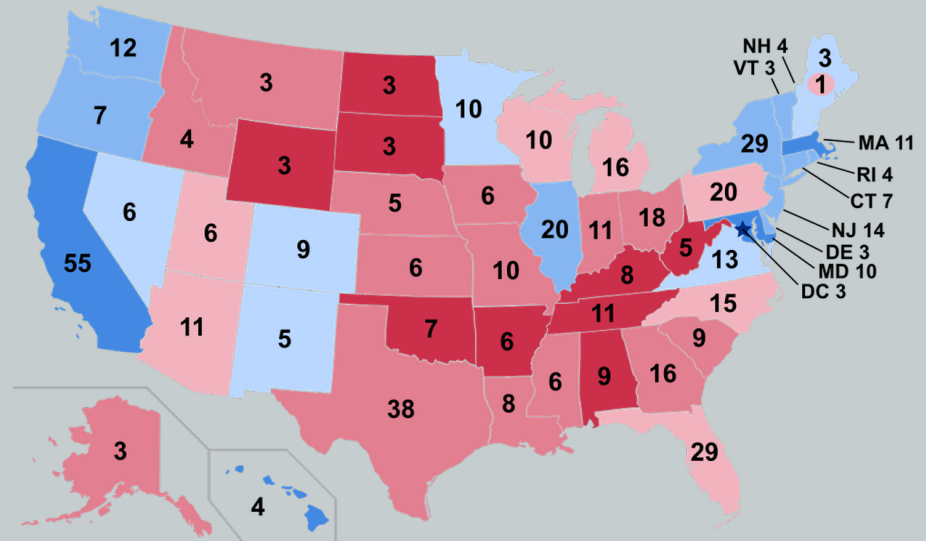


The Other Side of the Electoral College: An Exploration into the Less-Publicized Benefits of the Electoral College

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**How many constitutional amendments
have been proposed to reform the
Electoral College in all of history?**

A. 50 amendments

B. 250 amendments

C. 150 amendments

D. 700 amendments

Overview

★ The Origins

★ Pros

★ Reform

★ Original Survey

Electoral College – The Basics

☆ Allocating electoral votes to states (National Archives 2020a, para.1)

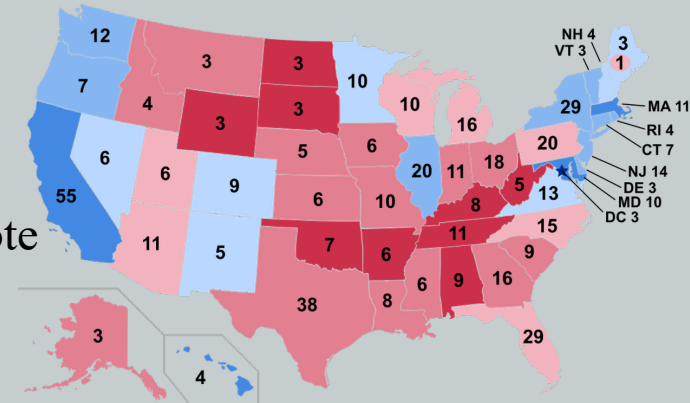
☆ Distributing votes to candidates (National Archives 2020a, para. 4)

☆ Winner-Take All

☆ Congressional District Method

☆ Electors casts votes in accordance with state's popular vote

(National Archives 2020b, para. 1-6)



1st Tuesday after
1st Monday
in November

1st Monday after
2nd Wednesday
in December

Early
January

**January
20**

November 3

December 14

January 7

Election
Day

Electoral
College casts
their votes

Congress
convenes
and counts
electors' votes

Inauguration
Day



The Origins of the Electoral College

☆ A compromise between three groups (Harvard Law Review 2001, pg. 2527-2529)

☆ Direct v. congressional elections

☆ Large v. small states

☆ Northern free states v. Southern slave states



(National Geographic 2020)

The Pros

★ Balance between the large and small states (Harvard Law Review 2001, pg. 2527) (Villegas 2018, pg. 202)

★ Political Stability (Congressional Research Service 2009, 5).

★ Keeps presidential candidates' campaigns national (Berns, Best, & Fried 2001, pg. 20-22)

★ Electors' voting behaviors (National Archives 2020b, para. 1-6)

★ 99%

“The Electoral College, in short, is organized on precisely the same principle as the United States Congress, and for precisely the same reason. Neither institution recognizes population alone as the exclusive measuring rod for democratic legitimacy” (Villegas 2018, pg. 203).

Losing the Popular Vote

☆ Loss popular vote but still won (USA.gov 2021, para. 3) (Roos 2020).

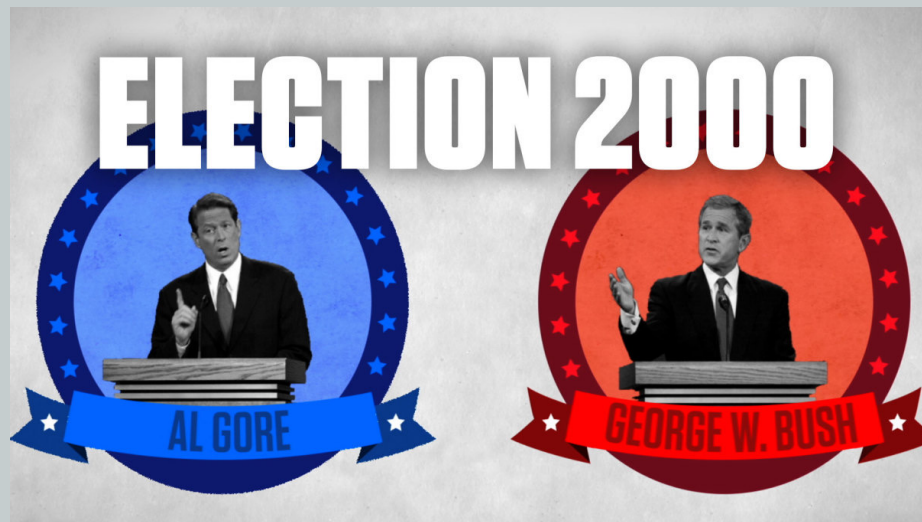
☆ John Quincy Adams (1824)

☆ Rutherford B. Hayes (1876)

☆ Benjamin Harris (1888)

☆ George W. Bush (2000)

☆ Donald Trump (2016)



Reform – Attempts and Ideas

☆ Three most popular plans (Congressional Research Service 2009, 4-6)

☆ Automatic Plan

☆ District Plan

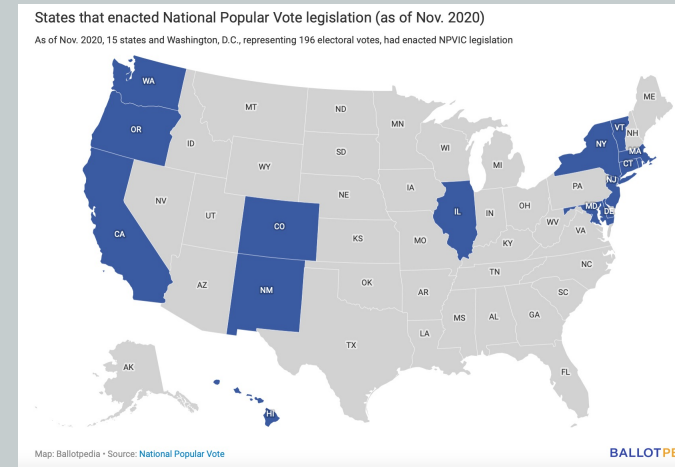
☆ Proportional Plan

☆ National Popular Vote Interstate Compact (Rosenstiel 2020, 333)

☆ Agreement among states

☆ 15 states + Dc

☆ 196 out of 270



(BallotPedia 2020)

Original Survey – Beginning Steps

☆ Hypothesis

☆ Political affiliation, education, and age would have a strong correlation with people preferring either the popular vote or electoral college over the other.

☆ Are people uneducated but still have an opinion?

Survey Details

- ★ Total of **50** respondents
- ★ 7 demographic questions
 - ★ 7 male responses and 43 female responses
 - ★ Little bit of everything
- ★ 4 right or wrong questions
- ★ 1 opinion based question
 - ★ Do you think the President of the United States should be elected based off the popular vote or by the current system, the Electoral College?
 - ★ Responses used as the dependent variable
- ★ 1 Open ended question

Analyzing the Data Quantitatively

- ★ Used SPSS

- ★ Independent Variable: Political Party Affiliation, Education, and Age

- ★ Dependent Variable: Popular Vote or Electoral College

- ★ Expectations:

- ★ Strong correlation

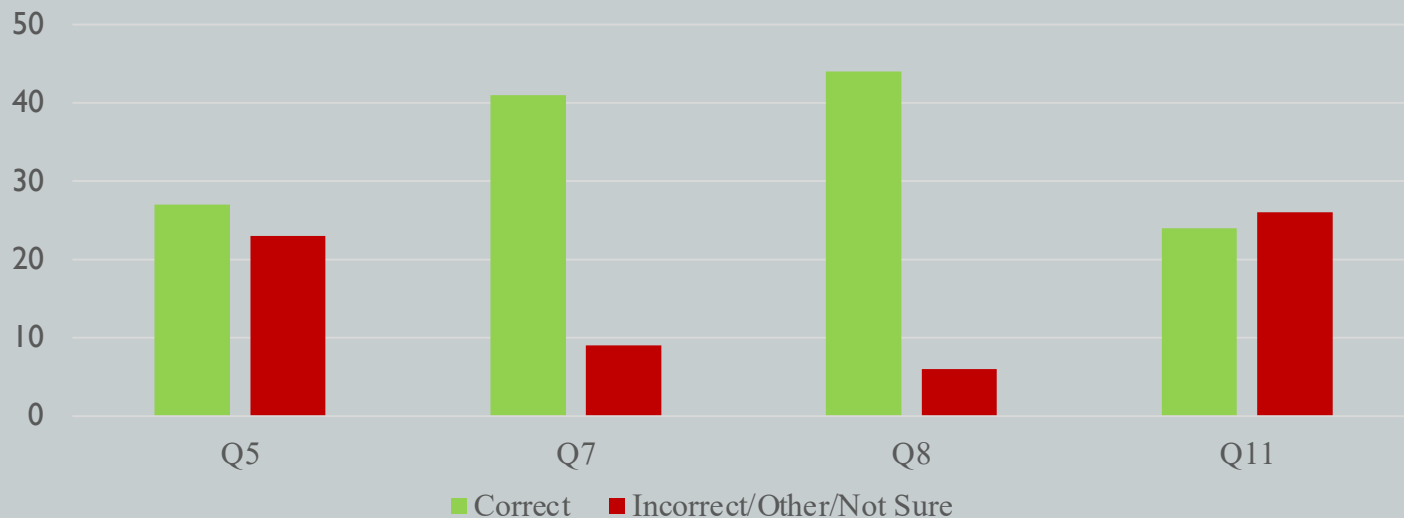
Survey Results

Independent Variable	Dependent Variable	R	R ²	Correlation
Party Affiliation	Popular Vote or Electoral College	0.265	0.70	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Positive• Weak
Education	Popular Vote or Electoral College	0.089	0.008	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Positive• Very Weak
Age	Popular Vote or Electoral College	0.052	.003	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Positive• Very Weak

Analyzing the Data Qualitatively

- ★ Are people uneducated but still have an opinion?
- ★ Looked at the number of missed questions, open-ended questions, and rather or not they desired some type of reform
- ★ Expectations: People would answer questions wrong and still have a reform suggestion.

Survey Results



Total number of respondents: **50**

Total number of responses to open-ended question: **31**

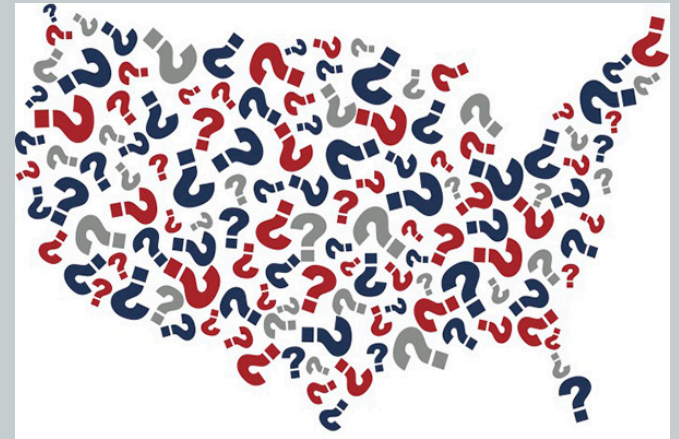
Number of respondents that missed at least one question: **21**

Number of respondents that missed at least one question and wanted some type of reform: **18**

Number of respondents who wanted Electoral College abolished completely: **10 out of 31**

Concluding Thoughts

- ★ Pros and Cons with everything
 - ★ Purpose - highlight the benefits
- ★ People still have opinions despite not knowing the basics
 - ★ Suggesting current systems being utilized
 - ★ Assessing our knowledge and fill the gaps
 - ★ Education on the topic



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Thank you!

Questions?